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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/549,667	04/14/2000	Douglas K. Warner	5483.00	8856

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT
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EXAMINER

CHEN, TE Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2171

DATE MAILED: 10/30/2003

17

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/549,667

Applicant(s)

WARNER ET AL.

Examiner

Susan Y Chen

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 08/18/2003 has been entered.
2. This is in response to amendment filed on 08/18/2003 (paper # 16).
3. Claims 1-33 are pending for examination, claim 1, 11, 21 and 24 have been amended.
4. Telephone interviews have been conducted between applicant's attorney – Min (Amy) Xu (Reg. No. 39,536) and the examiner on 10/22/2003 – 10/23/2003. Following is an Interview Summary being agree between the applicant's attorney and examiner:
 - 1) Combining the same features in claim 22 into claim 21 and cancel the existing claim 22.

2) Modifying the citing "said one or more record entries each including an associated relationship strength value" of claims 1, 11, 21 and 24, to "said one or more record entries each including a relationship type and an associated relationship strength value".

3) Amending the Abstract with less than 150 Words.

The examiner further suggest the following:

1) change the long title to "A Help Information Retrieving System With Usage Strange Computed Upon Session Query".

2) amend the citation of "relationship type" of agreement 2) to "help relationship type" as specified at page 12, line 22-23 of the Applicant's specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-33, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over de Hita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,774) in view of Felciano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,052,730).

As to claim 11, De Hita et al. disclosed the claimed apparatus for providing a context sensitive mapping of a plurality of help informational items in an information retrieval system [e.g., Fig. 1], comprising:

a) a help project database system [e.g., 199, Fig. 1; col. 6, lines 16-19, 180, 190, Fig. 4] having one or more record entries, the one or more record entries defining relationships between originating locations from which help requests are originated and corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items [530, Fig. 5; col. 12, lines 20-30 et seq.], and the one or more record entries each including an associated relationship strength value of based on historical frequency of selection of respective the corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items [col. 4, lines 40-47] which can be initiated real-time by the system user [e.g., col. 40, lines 1-4] from the originating locations (or the same user interface) [e.g., col. 11, lines 37-42]; and

b) a navigation interface [col. 6, lines 37-45; 180, Fig. 1] adapted to, upon detection of a user initiation of a help information retrieval session from an originating location, determine whether one or more matching record entries exist in the database for the being viewed informational item [420, Fig.4], and to provide, if the one or more matching record entries exist, an access to one or more associated help informational items corresponding to the originating location according to the one or more record entries [col. 6, lines 30-34].

De Hita et al. did not specifically disclose that the claimed browsing historical frequency is related to user's choice within the same information retrieval session.

However, Felciano et al. teaches a system with the browsing historical frequency tied to user's choice within the same information retrieval session [Abstract, col. 4, lines 51 –col. 5, lines 20]. As such, it would have been obvious to motivate an ordinary skill person in the art at the time invention was made to apply the teaching of Felciano et al. into De Hita 's system, because by doing so, De Hita's system would be able to track the logged browsing historical frequency and generate a more detailed representation of a user's browsing pattern which can help improve the efficiency of site organization.

As to claim 12, De Hita et al. further disclosed that the navigation interface is adapted to increase the associated relationship strength value for the one or more matching record entries corresponding to the at least one of the one or more associated help informational items by a predetermined amount [602, 640, Fig. 6; col. 27, lines 47-51].

As to claim 13, De Hita et al. further disclosed that the navigation interface is configured to, if the one or more record entries are not found in the database, provide a help topic content listing at least one of the plurality of help informational items, and, upon user selection of a help informational item from the listed at least one of the plurality of help informational items, to create a new record entry having a relationship strength value for the originating location and the user selected help informational item pair [col. 3, lines 40-61].

As to claim 14, De Hita et al. further disclosed that the navigation interface is configured to assign an initial value of the relationship strength value [col. 28, lines 32-34; lines 43-45].

As to claim 15, De Hita et al. further disclosed that a database update mechanism for updating the database to reflect the associated relationship strength value being increased [1530-1545, Fig. 15].

As to claim 16, De Hita et al. further disclosed that database update mechanism configured to store the new record entry in the database [420, 440, Fig. 3; col. 11, lines 20-21].

As to claim 17, De Hita et al. further disclosed that the system having means for collecting user selection data comprising a log of user actions during one or more help information retrieval sessions; and herein the updating the database is performed periodically off-line using the collected user selection data [310, Fig. 3].

As to claim 18, De Hita et al. further disclosed that the system having means for collecting user selection data comprising a log of user actions during one or more help information retrieval sessions; and wherein the updating the database is performed periodically off-line using the collected user selection data [col. 11, lines 37-44].

As to claim 19, De Hita et al. further disclosed that the navigation interface is configured to cause a list of the one or more associated help informational items to be displayed to the user [180, Fig. 1].

As to claim 20, De Hita et al. further disclosed that navigation interface is configured to sort the list of the one or more associated help informational items in a descending order of respective associated relationship strength [col. 27, lines 47-55].

As to claim 21, De Hita et al. further disclosed that an information retrieval system comprising:

- a) a plurality of help informational items [114, Fig. 1]; and
- b) a database having one or more record entries, the one or more record entries

defining relationships between locations from which help requests originated and corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items, and the one or more record entries each including an associated relationship strength value based on historical frequency of selection of respective the corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items during a help information retrieval session initiated from the originating locations [199, Fig. 1; 530, Fig. 5; col. 4, lines 40-47; col. 6, lines 16-19; col. 12, lines 20-26].

As to claim 22, De Hita et al. further disclosed that the information retrieval system including a navigation interface adapted to, upon detection of a user initiation of a help information retrieval session from an originating location, determine whether one or

more matching record entries exist in the database for the originating location, and to provide, if the one or more matching record entries exist, an access to one or more associated help informational items corresponding to the originating location according to the one or more record entries [col. 6, lines 30-34; lines 37-45; 180, Fig. 1; 420, Fig.4].

As to claim 23, De Hita et al. further disclosed that the plurality of informational items comprise a plurality of world wide web pages [180, Fig. 1; col. 7, lines 19-22].

As to claims 1-10 and 24-33 these claims recited the same features as in claims 11-20 and 21-23 in form of processing method or computer readable storage medium having computer program, hence were rejected for the same reasons.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-33 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan Y Chen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1155. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 7:00-4:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (703) 308-1436. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-6296.

Susan Chen
October 27, 2003


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